

SLNC Board of Directors Candidates: 2021

1. Sue Cairns

Nominated by: Tanya Hostyn, Kerry Van Sickle



My name is Sue Cairns, and I am running for a position on the SLNC Board of Directors. Greg and I, and our sons Lucas and Evan have been members at Sovereign coming up on a decade. Our boys have been highly involved in the Skill Development Programs from a young age, both cross country and biathlon, then progressing to the Academy Program, and racing. We feel so fortunate that our kids have had their Sovereign Family to grow up with. They have spent many hours being coached both by volunteers and professionals, had the pleasure of learning and progressing their skills, challenging their athleticism, and perhaps most importantly have done so with many other great kids, and their families. It has always been important to me to contribute to this great community, and so I have spent many hours over the years, volunteering and supporting Programs in various ways to help make the Programs experience a great one for kids, families, and the Club. I have witnessed firsthand how these programs promote healthy kids, families, and the greater community; it is this that I am passionate about and think I can contribute to the board having been closely involved in many aspects of supporting Programs in recent years.

Though my primary focus of supporting youth Programs and racing, I have been involved in other SLNC business and activities. For example, I have been the camp yoga teacher for Supercamps for several years and have an appreciation for the importance of our good relationship with Silver Star. Additionally, with extra time in the schedule last year because there was no racing due to the pandemic, I joined the Masters program – this was really fun for me, and I appreciate that people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to join programs at SLNC.

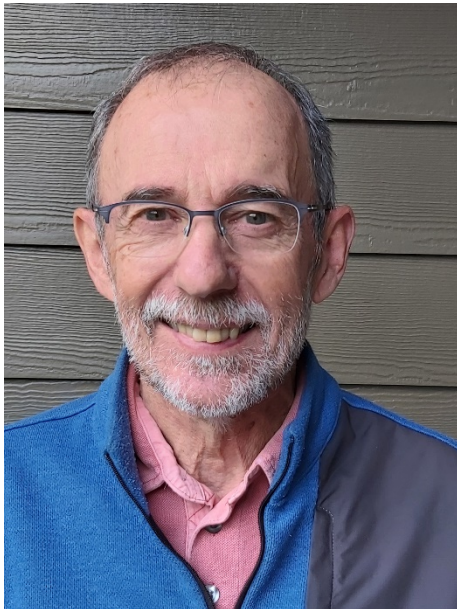
After a decade as an active club member, I recognize how valuable SLNC is to the community as it has been to our family and would like to give back by contributing to the activities of the Board. With one child moving on from his grade school and ski racing years, it's clear that the many wonderful life

experiences and growth opportunities he had in Programs at SLNC have impacted him positively and significantly. The relationships, skill, fitness, and confidence he has developed are propelling him to tackle whatever adventures he sets his mind to moving forward. With our youngest still an active member in the Academy Program and already in grade 11, I see the life stages beginning to shift, and have so much gratitude for all our family has gained through being a part of Sovereign Lake Nordic Programs.

I will say in closing I believe that technically strong, well-organized, and well-staffed Programs build the future and legacy of an amazing ski club. It is from this perspective I will contribute if elected to the Board of Directors.

2. Malcolm Devine

Nominated by: Rob Oxenham, Stephanie Oxenham



I wish to put my name forward as a candidate for a Board position at SLNC. I have been an active member for 5 or 6 years and have participated regularly in the Masters program for several years. I have also acted as a volunteer at various race events and trail maintenance activities during this time. My background is primarily in research and development (with some business development thrown in), which has given me considerable experience in project management and strategic planning. During my career I have sat on various Advisory Boards in both the public and private sectors. I hope that my overall experience will be of use should I be elected to the Board, and I look forward to contributing to the further development of SLNC.

3. Tara Fulop

Nominated by: Bill Miller, Rob Oxenham



I have been on the board since I moved to Vernon in 2019. I love to cross country ski and also learned to skate ski as well since moving back to BC after 25 years in Waterloo Ontario. My interest with the board is to get the community more involved with SLNC. Trying to find more ways to get people skiing or snow shoeing at SLNC.

And then Covid hit and everything we were doing went on HOLD. We were very lucky to have SLNC open through covid and have a place to come and exercise outdoors. But that came with a lot of decisions and new rules we all had to work with. Not everyone was happy about them but we grew SLNC in this time to the biggest Nordic centre in Canada. Our hope is to keep everyone who joined us last year will join us again this year, and to become more involved members with SLNC and maybe even join us on the board.

Like myself, you don't have to be a competitor but just someone who enjoys skiing and the outdoors. I have been on other boards before and with this one I hope to bring more energy and life to our club, help in creating a new lodge built and getting more of our community up to SLNC.

My real job outside of being on the Board for SLNC is a teacher at OVCMT (Okanagan Valley College of Massage Therapy) and part time RMT at The Health Nest in Vernon. I hope to continue for another couple years with SLNC.

4. Dren Maloku

Nominated by: SLNC Elections Committee – Franck Prat and Kim Taylor



1. Why are you interested in running for the Board?

I am a current SLNC season passholder in good standing, and I intend to run for a Board of Directors position with SLNC because I want to engage in and contribute to a noteworthy cause in my local community that is of personal interest to me.

2. Is there a specific skill or interest that would make you a valuable member of the Board?

I believe that my background together with my interdisciplinary experiences would be an asset to the SLNC Board of Directors in providing the latter with sound judgment when dealing with complex situations. To that regard, I have developed particular analytical and advocacy skills, that I believe lend themselves to engaging in critical group-thinking, facilitating decision-making, and in providing a useful voice of reason to the SLNC Board of Directors at large.

3. Is there anything else you would like to share with the SLNC membership in considering you for a Board position?

I am an associate lawyer with a small boutique law firm in the Vernon area. In the past, I have held many volunteering positions including serving as director of charity operations with Sweettalk – a non-for-profit organization in Vancouver that focused on finding a cure for type-1 diabetes. My last volunteering position was with the Spence Neighbourhood Association in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where I served as a basketball coach for impoverished youth residing in the Treaty 1 Territory.

5. Hugh Seaton

Nominated by: Sandra Ecclestone, William Miller



Why I am interested in continuing on the Board. It has been a pleasure to serve as a Board member over the past two years. Sovereign Lake is a world class nordic centre and I'm proud to be part of it. My priorities are team spirit and positive outcomes for the Sovereign Lake Board. As Treasurer, I chair the Finance Committee and sit on the Executive Committee. I led a policy committee on commercial operations at SLNC, and participated in the Programs Review Task Force which resulted in the expansion of coaching and resources for youth, biathlon, and masters.

My specific skills. I am experienced in collaboration, strategic planning and sound financial decision-making. I honed my skills as Director of a leading forest research centre in Alberta. This included business planning, staffing, managing the annual budget, building industry partnerships, applying for research grants, and leading campaigns such as securing funding for a new facility. My volunteer work has included church boards, support for Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and sitting on a provincial judging panel to recognize environmental projects.

Other points about me. I am Vernon born and raised. I left Vernon in my early 20's to advance my career and build a family. Since retiring and moving back in 2018, I've enjoyed a great deal of fun and fitness at Sovereign Lake. A highlight for me are the skills and friendships I've gained as a member of the Masters Program.